

# Fairy Tales, Myths, Folktales and Legends

A fairy tale is a story featuring folkloric characters such as fairies, goblins, elves, trolls, giants, and others. The fairy tale is a sub-class of the folktale. These stories often involve princes and princesses, and modern versions usually have a happy ending.

Although in the late nineteenth and twentieth century the fairy tale came to be associated with children's literature, adults were originally as likely as children to be the audience of the fairy tale. The fairy tale was part of an oral tradition: tales were narrated orally, rather than written down, and handed down from generation to generation.

The tales often had sad endings; such was the penalty for dealing with the fairy folk.

Later fairy tales were about princes and princesses, combat, adventure, society, and romance. Fairies had a secondary role. Moral lessons and happy endings were more common, and the villain was usually punished. In the modern era, fairy tales were altered, usually with violence removed, so they could be read to children (who according to a common modern sentiment should not hear about violence).

Sometimes fairy tales are simply miraculous entertainments, but often they are disguised morality tales.

From Wikipedia

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fairy\\_tale](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fairy_tale)

## Websites You May Want to Visit

Scholastic

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/mff/index.htm>

Folklore and Mythology Electronic Texts

<http://www.pitt.edu/~dash/folktexts.html>

An Introduction to Fairytale Studies

<http://www.surlalunefairytales.com/introduction/index.html>

Encyclopedia Mythica

<http://www.pantheon.org/>

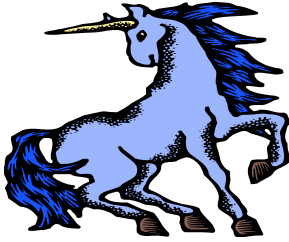
**Books You May Want to Read** (Hint: go to the TEL Database, **What Do I Read Next** and choose to do a Custom Search. Under Subject, choose Fairy Tales, unclick Adult and Young Adults and then hit Search.) Or, go to the shelves and look for the call number 398.2

You may also read many fairytales, myths, legends and folklore online at Project Gutenberg. Project Gutenberg is the first and largest single collection of free electronic books, or eBooks.

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- Grimm's Fairy Tales
- Hans Christian Anderson
- Aesop's Fables
- Legends
- Mythology
- Folklore
- Fairy Tales

## To Find More

In TEL, go to **Kids InfoBits** or **Junior Edition - K12** and use the following search strategies:

Fairy Tales	Folklore	Myths
Fairy Tales Adaptations	Fairies	Legends
Fractured Fairy Tale	Fairytale	Fables

## Just for Fun

Adapted from <http://www.eduplace.com/rdg/hml/blue/tale/fairy.html>

### BACKGROUND

The first two little pigs in "The Three Little Pigs" made some serious mistakes constructing their homes. What if the third little pig had refused to bail them out in order to teach them a lesson? Would they have had to reserve a room at The Swine Street Inn? Would they have organized a Piggy Posse to run the wolf out of town?

**Now, you can Fracture a Fairy Tale.**

1. List some elements that all good fairy tales have.
  - they begin, "Once upon a time...."
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
2. List some of your favorite fairy tales.
  - Cinderella
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
3. Now you have an opportunity to "fracture" one of these tales. A fractured fairy tale is designed to be humorous by changing the story in an unexpected way; like altering a character, or adding modern language and events.
  - Cinderella is homely and has beautiful stepsisters.
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_

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